



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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DE CYMRU / SOUTH WALES ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting held at Up and Under, Cardiff
On Tuesday 19 April 2022

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from CJ Griffiths (attempting to dial in), Alan Gibbs.

A quorum was present in accordance with Article 7.1 of the British Mountaineering Council's Terms of Reference for Areas ("Area ToRs").

2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 17 January 2022, a draft of which had been posted on the BMC website were approved.

3. Updates

3.1. BMC staff updates (Eben) –

Elfyn has now retired. Tom Carrick will be taking over in a similar role with a small educational slant. He will be having 3 months off through the summer which Elfyn will partially cover.

Pembroke Festival – 3-5 June (Queen's Jubilee bank holiday)

Hongian Ffestival – Welsh language, last weekend of May

Gower Festival – 26-29 August

Getting on with more lobbying; two priorities are agriculture and the access bill. Went to all the party conferences to engage with politicians and farmers. Meeting with agricultural spokesperson for Plaid Cymru.

Access legislation has slowed down and unclear timeline and scope.

Working on the Welsh language policy for the BMC. Looking at longer term partnership projects for conservation and grants.

Director update (Pete Salenieks)

Sport England have given the BMC and partners a suggested figure for grants. Membership is recovering post-pandemic. Insurance sales are recovering as people get out more.

Full GB competition schedule is now up and running. There is a push to strengthen the senior management team. BMC AGM 7pm on 18 May via Zoom.

Volunteer gala event being planned for the weekend around 8 October.

3.2. Access - Gower (Stuart Burns) –

All normal on the Gower, potential new chough nesting site on Lewes Castle – existing restriction likely to cover this.

Looking to get more signage up around bird bans to raise awareness.

3.3. Access - Pembrokeshire (Steve Quinton) –

Climbing access pretty similar to last year – had some site meetings eg Mother Carey's. Birds seem to disappear whenever trying to inspect! There's a chough nesting somewhere on Mother Carey's which may lead to a restriction once identified.

Steve was on Countryfile a few weeks ago. Range West briefings are ongoing – hundreds have been briefed so far. Next briefing is 9am on 12 May, all listed on the BMC website.

Restriction on "Life", west of Mother Carey's due to a colony of greater horseshoe bats.

Pembroke festival has climbing workshops, nature walk etc. Steve's doing a quiz in the evening and there will be some sort of guest speaker.

3.4. Access - South East (Alex Seekings) –

Dimbath – discussions have petered out somewhat, so this remains banned. Alex now has access to update RAD.

3.5. Climbing walls (CJ Griffiths) –

No update was available, however Joe mentioned the Welsh bouldering championship has been re-scheduled to 8 May and will need volunteers.

Action – ensure CJ gets in contact with Liz to arrange handover of contact at Haverfordwest.

3.6. **Clubs** (Peter Salenieks) –

Only a few days left for clubs to apply for grants promoting diversity and inclusion. #FindYourAdventure continues. Looking ahead to the AGM clubs committee are proposing changes to the Articles to increase the range of clubs that can apply to affiliate.

Reviewing the protocol for critical incident management.

3.7. **Members Council** (CJ/Steve) –

Members Council is missing a club member rep if anyone is interested. Next meeting focus is hillwalking, followed by inclusion/diversity.

Looking at increasing participation, and trying to tap into the existing market.

There is likely to be a members code of conduct, particularly around use of social media.

Still reviewing policies such as the Participation Statement.

Homes for Ukraine – see BMC website or local area Facebook group

3.8. **Mountain Training** (Matt Woodfield) –

Not a lot exciting at the moment – Camping Leader award (rebrand of expedition skills) has launched. More co-ordination between various reps happening.

See the poster for youth courses, also club courses ongoing. Some hardship grants are available from BMC, also the Cam and Bear fund.

3.9. **Student Clubs** (Luke Allum) –

All seems pretty happy since covid – real boost in numbers, looking at upskilling. Unions have been quite tough on clubs around paperwork.

Jacob Isaac would be willing to take over, 2nd year Chemistry student at Swansea. Matt proposed, Steve seconded, no objections.

Record of thanks to Luke for his input over the years.

3.10. **Youth** (Joe Holmes) –

Youth Climbing Series is coming around, starting 17 September, 1 October, 22 October, 5 November, final 26/27 November.

Looking at an indoor climbing symposium for young people in south Wales.

Still a lot of feedback about the costs of participating, including the hidden costs of travel between north/south Wales.

- 3.11. **Hillwalking** (Alan/James) –
No update was available.

4. Establishing South Wales BMC Volunteering Events

- 4.1. Other areas have various regular clean-up events. Is there something we could do regularly here? There was interest from the floor. Mount Pleasant may be a good start.

This will also need communication/media support.

5. Any other business

- 5.1. There was no further business

6. Date of next meeting

- 6.1. The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 27 June (Zoom).
6.2. Provisional dates for future meetings: Tuesday 18 October (AGM, in person).